



## Jon A. Carlson for the Rehabilitation of the B & C Grocery Building, Royal Oak

When the B & C Grocery closed in the 1960s, the vibrant façade of yellow, burgundy, and salmon-colored porcelain enameled metal panels became hidden. “Updated” with brick and a tall, shingled pent roof that obscured the building’s Art Deco architecture, the once-eye-catching structure became a dull nonentity on one of downtown Royal Oak’s main corners.

In 2005 Jon A. Carlson’s Real North, L.L.C., completed a rehabilitation of the former grocery building. Carlson tore off the 1960s brick face and revealed the metal panels still in place underneath. He restored the ones he could and replicated where the old panels were too badly deteriorated. Taking advantage of the federal historic preservation tax credits, Jon Carlson invested \$2.5 in rehabilitating the structure and met the need for more exciting, vibrant venues in Royal Oak to serve the city’s younger population.

The project transformed the intersection of Fifth and Main Street. Rehabilitated and now housing a restaurant, a wine bar and shop, a coffee house, and a club, the building is a vivid visual exclamation mark of color and Art Deco/Moderne design in downtown Royal Oak.

Architect: HF Architects

General Contractor: JC Beal Construction

# Historic Preservation in Michigan

